

FOGLAND BEACH OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes 25 October 2006

Members present: T. Ramotowski (Chairman, Conservation Commission), W. Randall (Neighborhood Representative), J. Cook (Chairman, Recreation Commission), D. Webster (Director of Public Works) S. Carr (Chairman, Harbor Commission), and G. Steckman (Town Administrator).

Members absent: M. Van Hof.

Also present: R. Elder

Chairman Ramotowski called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM at the Tiverton Community Center, 346 Judson Street.

I. Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

II. Administrative Matters

- **Introduce New Meeting Agenda Format**

Chairman Ramotowski gave an overview of the new meeting format that is being implemented for Oversight Committee meetings. The new meeting format is described in detail in Chairman Ramotowski's memorandum to the Oversight Committee dated 19 October 2006, copies of which had been distributed to Committee members in their mail packets for the present meeting.

- **Approval of Minutes**

Mr. Webster made a motion to approve the minutes of the 23 August 2006 regular meeting as submitted. Seconded by Mr. Cook.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0-1 (Chairman Ramotowski, Mr. Webster and Mr. Cook in favor; Mr. Randall abstained).

Mr. Webster made a motion to approve the minutes of the 28 September 2006 inspection tour. Seconded by Mr. Cook.

VOTE: Motion passed 3-0-1 (Chairman Ramotowski, Mr. Webster and Mr. Cook in favor; Mr. Randall abstained).

- **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

There was no miscellaneous correspondence.

III. Committee Member Reports

NOTE: Because of the absence of several Oversight Committee members, these reports were taken out-of-order from the agenda.

- **Director of Public Works**

Mr. Webster reported that the DPW will be grading a portion of 3-Rod Way, but not the extreme northern end of the road where the large pot-holes are located. That area, which leads to the windsurfer beach, needs more in the way of repairs than simple regrading. The amount of work needed to repair that section of the road is well beyond “simple maintenance” and thus would require a formal CRMC application.

Mr. Webster stated that 3 Rod Way was one of the roads whose status as a Town road or private way was unresolved. A map from 1893 shows the road, but not necessarily in its present location. The map shows the road laid out as a straight line, with no consideration for wetlands or rocks. The road was also shown going straight to the water’s edge. A survey will be needed to determine how well the present road matches the old map.

- **Neighborhood Representative**

Mr. Randall stated that he was standing in for Mr. Merriman, who could not attend the meeting. Mr. Randall stated that he had nothing to report.

Mr. Randall noted that when Fogland Point Road was paved, a ditch was dug alongside the road to drain away rainwater. Over time, this ditch has become filled with sand and other debris, and rainwater ponds on and alongside of the road. Mr. Randall asked if the drainage ditch could be re-dug to prevent rainwater from ponding. Mr. Webster stated that such work would not be considered to be “routine maintenance” and, thus, would trigger the need for a formal CRMC assent application.

Mr. Carr and Mr. Steckman arrived at this time.

- **Recreation Commission**

Mr. Cook reported that the Recreation Commission was awaiting approval from the Town Solicitor and Town Council for the language on the proposed sign listing rules and regulations for Fogland Beach. Mr. Cook agreed that the wording on the proposed sign is not word-for-word the same as what is in the Town Code.

- **Conservation Commission**

Chairman Ramotowski stated that the Conservation Commission was concerned about a report that an ISDS application had been filed to allow for the construction of a house on the northeastern-most lot off of 3 Rod Way. This lot had traditionally hosted a trailer, but later a house was built on the lot without the necessary Town permits. Because of the lack of permits, the house was removed. Apparently the owner now wants to try to obtain permission to build a house on this lot once again. This is a concern, because the lot in question is small and backs up against the salt-water wetland on the western edge of Town-owned property. Chairman Ramotowski promised to provide more information on this ISDS application at the next Oversight Committee meeting.

- **Open Space Commission**

There was no report.

- **Harbor Commission**

Mr. Carr reported that the mooring buoy that was noted to be too close to shore during the Oversight Committee's September 28, 2006 inspection tour had not yet been relocated by the Harbor Master.

- **Town Administrator**

Mr. Steckman noted that the upcoming Town budget was going to be very tight because the cost of constructing the new elementary schools must be phased into the expenditures. Mr. Steckman noted that the Oversight Committee had submitted a budget request for \$15,000.00 for the mapping/surveying of the Town Owned land at Fogland. Mr. Steckman stated that he would do what he could to keep those funds in the budget, but he could not promise the Committee's request would be funded in the end.

IV. Progress Towards Common Goals

- **Detailed Map/Survey of Town-Owned Property at Fogland**

- **FY 06-07 Budget Request**

Chairman Ramotowski noted that a formal request for \$15,000.00 in funding from next year's budget had been made via a memorandum to the Town Administrator dated 08 October 2006. These funds are to be used to create the map/survey of all the Town-owned land at Fogland. The money requested is "matching funds" for a RI-DEM wetlands grant for Fogland that has already been approved by the State of Rhode Island. Chairman Ramotowski stated that a new cost estimate will

be requested of Civil Engineering Concepts, Inc. to determine exactly how much the mapping/surveying will cost. The need for new fly-over photos for the mapping/surveying will also be determined.

- **Long-Term Management Plan for Fogland Beach**

There was nothing to report at this time.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, the October 25, 2006 meeting of the Fogland Oversight Committee adjourned at 5:30 PM.

These minutes were prepared by T. Ramotowski.